

# EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE

## *Changing Lives*

### In Butler County

Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.



*Pictured left to right: Patricia Stuckwisch and family; Lee Ann Daugherty and family; family of Elwanda Romans*

### Extension Hall of Fame

The Butler County Extension Service continues to offer one of the strongest Extension programs in the state. We strive to meet the needs of Butler County and have been doing so for over 100 years. Each year, literally hundreds of people volunteer to provide their most precious resource, their time, to the people of Butler County by supporting and leading programs across program areas and across the county. Rural Development Club officers, 4-H Camp volunteers, Extension Homemaker officers, and board members of our Stockman’s Association are just a few examples of job descriptions filled by our volunteers.

We recently began recognizing volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to our community through their work with the Extension Service. These are members of the Butler County Extension Hall of Fame. Their pictures hang in the main hallway of our building and serve to remind us all of the value of true leadership.

The 2024 class of inductees for the Extension Hall of Fame are: Patty Stuckwisch, Lee Ann Daugherty, Elwanda Romans, and Patty Stuckwisch.

#### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Family and Consumer Sciences  
 4-H Youth Development  
 Community and Economic Development

#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

## Moving from the Past to the Future of Agriculture Field Day

Producers are looking to improve their beef management ability and boost profitability. This year's weather pattern caused difficulty getting crop protection chemicals applied in a timely manner. Several farmers turned to drone operators for chemical application.



*Attendees learned about drone spraying at the 2024 Extension Field Day.*

A field day was planned to address these diverse topics and more.

The field day was marketed to row crop farmers, beef producers, and families with farmland they intend to transition in the reasonable near future. There was a presentation on KY Beef Network programs and using the "Bud Box" concept to better handle cattle. A demonstration of a DGI-40 spray drone was augmented by a discussion of the requirements and economics of using this technology.

To address the issue of losing farmland to development in KY there was a presentation on "Transitioning Family Farms". We also offered updates from Extension's partner agriculture agencies. Extension staff helped facilitate registration and feeding the crowd as well as providing samples of "Plate It Up KY" recipes for all in attendance.

The 4-H agent used the opportunity to work with the 4-H Teen Club on food preparation and food safety. They prepared, served, and cleaned up the meal for all the participants. Pork was sourced from a local meat processor and chicken was donated by a chicken integrator.

The program was delivered in the Banock community. The event was held at the Banock Farm. The Banock Farm is a multi-generation farm that is very diverse.

The FFA facilitated parking for the event.

The following organizations worked together to make the program successful: UK Extension (Butler County and UK Specialist, Josh Jackson), The KY Beef Network, Valley View Applications, FSA, NRCS, USDA, B. C. Farm Bureau, The Farmland Preservation Initiative, and the host family.

There were 136 that attended the program. There were 17 children in attendance.

A Qualtrics evaluation was collected from 59 participants prior the meal. This instrument gives participants a chance to report what they learned and what information



*Attendees listening to the speaker at the Banock Farm for the 2024 Extension Field Day.*

they will use. The initial outcome of the program is that 82% of respondents said they got something useful from the program or would put new information to use. Around 35% of respondents said they learned something from the field day that they would use this year. There is

intermediate impact as 2% said they would change a farming practice. These respondents listed 9 specific practices they would change. Evaluations continue to show that attendees learn at these programs and enjoy the opportunity to network.

## Science, Engineering and Technology

As adults, we see the world as large and complicated. We've had experiences, traveled, lived. Our youth tend to see the world 'around' them, lacking those experiences yet to come. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math classes in school, are just "classes" to many youth. The practical use of, and the opportunities incumbent in these areas of study, are not yet real to many 4-Hers. How do we teach youth the very practical uses of STEAM/STEM/SET knowledge?

4-H Aerospace Camp utilizing the 4-H



*Butler County youth with a volunteer flight instructor.*

Aerospace Curriculum is one response in teaching youth 6-12 grades. We create interesting, fun

applications using the 4-H Aerospace Curriculum. Youth were instructed on - Principles of Flight: Lift, Drag, Thrust, Weight, Weather, Physics, Rocketry, Glider Building, and more. Youth also learned about the Bernoulli Principle and Newton's First and Third Laws - all with an emphasis on how to apply these principles. Finally, we let each youth apply these principles by taking a "discovery" flight with a Certified Flight Instructor where they get to fly the plane, with a little back up from the Certified Flight Instructor. While youth took turns in flight, those grounded learned about physics, energy budgeting, gearing and traction with EV Tractors and a tractor pull competition. Career paths in STEAM/SET areas were highly discussed.

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We worked with the Madisonville Regional Airport for facilities, Torey Earle (4-H SET Specialist), Tim Stombaugh (UK Ag. Engineering), Wilson's Flying Service, 9 Certified Flight Instructors, 4 adult volunteers, and the owners of 6 Cessna 150's and 2 Cessna 172's who were kind enough to loan us aircraft.

We have conducted this camp 13 times over the last 16 years (we missed the COVID years). The impact has been phenomenal. Every youth has rated the overall program as excellent, as well as the individual classes, principles of flight, gliders, and rockets. More importantly, youth that have participated report that it as a reason to stay in 4-H.

Additionally, several youth have not only gone on with improved knowledge of practical application of science, several have attended ECU, MTSU, Embry Riddle or other Aviation/Aerospace University level programs and started careers in the industry.

Some current 4-H Teens have gotten their drone license and several instructors and committee members are 4-H Alumni. Many discovered aerospace as an opportunity at this camp in the past. One past participant, who flies for Frontier Airlines, was getting married on this date and couldn't volunteer, sent two scholarships for new kids to gain the experience because of how important the program was to him.



*Butler County youth getting ready to take flight.*

This program shows not just short term excellent ratings, but long term impact on lives of youth that apply science in a variety of ways, as well as those specifically in the aviation/aerospace industry ⌘

## Hunter's Night Out

During the 2023 Deer Hunting season, there were reported 141,042 deer harvested in Kentucky by 107,107 hunters. In Butler County in 2023, there were 1525 deer harvested by 1167 hunters. Hunting is a popular sport in our community. Hunting has the potential to show an increase in physical activity, improve mental health, and improve the nutritional intakes of individuals and families. According to a new study published in 2024 in the *Scientific Reports*, wild food procurement was associated with improved food security during the 2020 pandemic. In an article from Michigan State University Extension, it is highlighted that hunting can promote physical activity as it requires stamina, strength, balance as well as walking, bending, stretching, pulling and hauling - which are aerobic, strength building, and stretching activities. Being in the outdoors also has several mental health benefits - lowering blood pressure and heart rate, reducing stress, and being a natural antidepressant.

In November 2024, the Butler County Extension Office, as well as community partners, collaborated to present a Hunter's Night Out. This event was held on the night prior to the start of gun season for deer hunting in Butler County. The objective was to offer resources and information for the sportsman in the community. Sportsmen were provided with information on hunter safety, resources for equipment and supplies, recipes and handouts on how to safely store and prepare wild game, as well as in-person demonstrations on deer processing by UK Specialist Dr. Gregg Rentfrow, and how to prepare summer sausage (by Butler County Extension staff). Approximately 700 individuals attended the event. Attendees were able to sample two extension recipes that were prepared using deer meat and turkey - Cook Wild Venison Chili and Butternut Squash Turkey Chili. These recipes,



4-H Agent Lloyd Saylor with UK Specialist, Gregg Rentfrow, dressing a deer.

along with other wild game items, were distributed to attendees with many stating they looked forward to trying a new recipe as a result of the program. 60

individuals participated in the deer processing demonstration, with many asking questions and all individuals stating they gained knowledge and understanding as a result of the demonstration. 20 individuals participated in the demonstration for the summer sausage with the majority stating intentions to make summer sausage at home. Participants also reported that they had an increase in knowledge of food safety practices.

All attendees learned new information through handouts and demonstrations and were able to strengthen relations with other sportsmen in the area.

Community partners for this event included Cool Springs Baptist Church, the Morgantown Mission, New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, and multiple sponsors from the community.

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### **Butler County** *Extending Knowledge, Changing*

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